

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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FM AMCONSUL MILAN
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
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S E C R E T MILAN 0742

EO 11652: XGDS-2 (EXEMPT 10 YRS)
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION - MILAN

1. CONGEN MET WITH PREFECT AMARI THIS MORNING TO REVIEW
ESCALATION OF TERRORISM LAST WEEK WHICH DIRECTLY HIT TWO
US FIRMS - CHMICAL BANK AND HONEYWELL CONTROLS. AMARI,
BIG, LOUD, OUTSPOKEN FORCEFUL CAREER PREFECT CAME HERE
TWO AND ONE HALF YEARS AGO FROM NAPLES. WHILE HE PUTS
ONE OFF BY COMING ON SO STRONG, HE HAS PROVEN IN PAST
TO BE RELIABLE AND UNFAILINGLY COOPERATIVE.

2. AMARI BEGAN BY SAYING THAT HE WAS NOT ALONE IN
HAVING SUSPECTED CIA INVOLVEMENT IN MORO KIDNAPPING TO
SABOTAGE DC-PCI COOPERATION. HOWEVER, FOR WHATEVER REASON,
HE NOW CLAIMED TO BE CONVINCED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE.

3. CENTRAL ISSUE WAS HOW TO GET TERRORIST THREAT UNDER CONTROL,
HE SAID. ATTACKS ON MULTINATIONALS AND ON ECONOMIC SECTOR IN
LOMBARDY ARE DESIGNED TO DESTABILIZE ITALIAN SITUATION. ATTACKS
ON FOREIGNERS COULD BE NEXT. UNLESS THIS THREAT CAN BE CONTROLLED,
ECONOMY RISKS PARALYSIS AND ITALY WOULD SUFFER GREATLY. IT IS
HIS TASK TO BLOCK THIS MANEUVER.

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4. ACCORDING TO AMARI, A DETERMINED MINISTER OF INTERIOR WITH
TWO OR THREE PICKED DEPUTIES - HIS CAPO GABINETTO, CHIEF OF
POLICE - COULD GET SITUATION IN HAND IN SIX MONTHS. BUT HE WILL
NEED POLITICAL AUTHORITY PARTICULARLY TO INTERROGATE SUSPECTS
DIRECTLY BY POLICE RATHER THAN BY COURT OFFICERS. AMARI REVEALED
IN CONFIDENCE THAT MAJOR POLICE SUCCESS IN MILAN TEN DAYS AGO
IN LOCATING KIDNAP VICTIM WAS DUE TO DIRECT POLICE INTERROGATION

OF SUSPECT WHO BECAUSE OF "VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES", WAS UNABLE TO GET LAWYER OR COURT OFFICER PROMPTLY.
WE ASSUME A SIMILAR PROCEDURE MAY BE USED IF SOME BR
SUSPECT NOW CAUGHT IN MILAN.

5. AT MOMENT WHEN SELECTION OF NEW MINISTER OF INTERIOR IS MAIN ISSUE, AMARI REPEATED HIS SHARP CRITICISM OF RESIGNED COSSIGA. AS HE HAD SAID BEFORE, HE HAD NO CONFIDENCE IN COSSIGA. MOREOVER, HE SAID THAT SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE COSSIGA RESIGNATION, HE HAD ANNOUNCED HIS OWN INTENTION TO RESIGN BECAUSE OF HIS DISAGREEMENT WITH COSSIGA.

6. PROBLEM WAS, AMARI CLAIMED, THAT COSSIGA HAD DISMANTLED POLICE AND WAS NOT DOING JOB. WHEREAS MINISTER OF INTERIOR OR HIS DEPUTY SHOULD BE ON PHONE DAILY TO TOP TEM PREFECTS (INCLUDING MILAN, OF COURSE), COSSIGA HAS NOT CALLED AMARI LITERALLY FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. AMARI ALSO INSISTED CHIEF OF POLICE MUST BE REPLACED.

7. AMARI FAVORABLE TO SCALFARO, CONSERVATIVE DC TO SUCCEED COSSIGA. BUT PICCOLI (BEING MOST MENTIONED) COULD BE ALLRIGHT. REMAINED TO BE SEEN IF GOVERNMENT REALLY READY TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM OR JUST TALK.

8. IF GOVERNMENT SERIOUS, SIX MONTHS COULD SEE SUCCESS.
BUT THAT WOULD MEAN POWER AND MEN. MILAN HAS AUTHORIZED
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FORCE OF 1,000 MEN FOR SECURITY WORK BUT, DUE TO GENERAL UNDER STRENGTH, HAS ONLY 850. AMARI ASKED POWER TO LENGTHEN SHIFTS AND TO PAY OVERTIME TO MAKE UP SHORTAGE BUT TURNED DOWN FLAT ON BUDGET GROUND. THIS, HE EXPLODED, WHEN BURNIGN HONEYWELL COSTS TWO MILLION DOLLARS IN A SINGLE EVENING* MOREOVER, WHEN LAST YEAR HE ASKED FUNDS FOR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING FOR POLICE, IT DENIED ON GROUNDS THAT IF MAN KILLED WEARING BULLET PROOF VESTS, GOVERNMENT WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE. AMARI FINALLY RAISED FUNDS LOCALLY FROM PRIVATE DONORS FOR LIMITED NUMBER OF VESTS.

9. ACCORDING TO AMARI, HE IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR JOB WITH NEW MINISTER OF INTERIOR. BUT HE SAYS HE RELUCTANT LEAVE MILAN WHICH HE CONSIDERS KEYSTONE ITALIAN SECURITY SITUATION, UNLESS HE WILL HAVE STRONG SUCCESSOR AND UNLESS HE HAS FULL CONFIDENCE IN NEW MINISTER OF INTERIOR.FINA

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